

## Reading practice GG121

### Section R1 (13 marks)

Read the following article and answer all the questions.

#### Surviving in Alaska

Tyson Steele has always loved the idea of surviving on his own, far from everyday life. Therefore, he decided to build a cabin in the snowy forests of Alaska and live there.

One freezing night, Tyson got up to check on the wood burner. As the fire had nearly gone out, he threw a large piece of cardboard onto it. The fire grew so big and so rapidly that it set the roof on fire. Tyson managed to stay calm. He took a spade and started to throw snow on the fire. When he realised this wasn't helping, he ran outside wearing only the clothes he had been sleeping in. He didn't have time to collect any belongings. Eventually, the fire went out, but the cabin was mostly destroyed.

The temperature outside was -15 degrees so Tyson started to build a shelter from the pieces of wood and metal that survived. He heated it using the same wood burner that had burnt down his cabin. He also wrote HELP in big letters in the snow for any passing plane to see. From the fire, Tyson had managed to save several tins of food from his two-year supply. Hundreds of tins had been destroyed. He worked out that he could survive for thirty days on the tins that he had.

No one knew Tyson was alone in Alaska except for his family, who he had contacted by radio every week before the fire. When they hadn't heard from Tyson for two weeks, they were concerned. They called the Alaskan authorities and a helicopter was sent out. Fortunately, it only took the rescue team a few days to find Tyson and, three weeks after his frightening adventure began, he was safe.

Despite what happened in Alaska, Tyson is determined to go back there one day. 'I loved my warm, cosy cabin. Although I dreamed about takeaway pizza and hamburger and chips, I really enjoyed my own company and the challenge of keeping myself warm and fed,' said Tyson.

In questions 1-3, please answer in complete sentences. (2 marks each)

1. How did the cabin catch fire?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What did Tyson do to increase his chances of being seen and rescued?
3. Why did the Alaskan authorities go and look for Tyson?

**For questions 4-8, tick (✓) the box. (1 mark each)**

4. After the cabin fire, Tyson had enough food for a hundred days.

True ☐ False ☐

5. Tyson wants to return to Alaska in the future.

True ☐ False ☐

6. After the cabin caught fire, the first thing Tyson did was

- A panic and run into the forest.  
B try to put out the fire.  
C rush to fetch some of his possessions.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐

7. How long after the cabin fire was Tyson found?

- A several days  
B two weeks  
C three weeks

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐

8. What did Tyson miss while living in Alaska?

- A sleeping in his warm bed  
B eating some fast food  
C seeing other people

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐

**Write the words in the box. (1 mark each)**

9. Find the word in the passage which means the **OPPOSITE** of:

*slowly (paragraph 2)*

10. Find the word in the passage which means the **SAME** as:

*worried (paragraph 4)*

## Section R2 (7 marks)

Read the five short texts below, which are all emails. Choose from the texts (A to E) and complete the answer grid. The texts may be chosen more than once. One has been done for you as an example.

A. As you know, I'm in charge of organising Sam's birthday party next month and I know he's looking forward to it. My mum's making the cake and I've got lots of ideas for games and entertainment. I'm just not sure which venue to choose. There's the football club, which is cheap and nearby, or the hotel in town. It's expensive but really lovely inside. Which one do you think is the best option?

B. I just wanted to make sure you haven't forgotten our plans for tomorrow afternoon. I'll see you in the park at 2 pm and then we can decide what to do. I hear there's a new café by the lake that makes the best hot chocolate! I can't wait to see you as it's been such a long time. We've got so much to chat about.

C. I had to write and tell you about my parents' 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary last Saturday. They thought they were just having a meal together at the new restaurant in town. However, when they arrived, the whole family was there, even my brother, who had come all the way from South Africa. We hadn't seen him for over a year. Everyone had a smile on their face the whole evening.

D. I have seen your advertisement on the internet for staff at your campsite this summer. Please could you tell me what jobs are available and the skills you require? I am a qualified swimming instructor and I have experience working with children. Could you also tell me about the working hours and the salary you are offering? I look forward to hearing from you.

E. As a regular customer of yours, I've always been really happy with the service you provide. However, I was disappointed with the mobile phone I bought on your website. When it arrived, the screen was broken and it wouldn't turn on. I have tried calling customer services several times but no one answers. This service is unacceptable. I expect you to send me a replacement phone or a full refund as soon as possible.

Which email, A, B, C, D or E, is from someone who

| has made an online purchase?               | e.g. | E |
|--------------------------------------------|------|---|
| is talking about a nice surprise?          | 1    |   |
| is asking for an opinion?                  | 2    |   |
| is confirming a meeting?                   | 3    |   |
| is requesting further information?         | 4    |   |
| is making a complaint?                     | 5    |   |
| is looking forward to talking to a friend? | 6    |   |
| is planning an event?                      | 7    |   |